



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

PRESS RELEASE

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Detainee Deal Now Resolved as Hunter Gains Protections for American Personnel

Hunter Receives Letter of Assurance from Director of National Intelligence

Washington, D.C. – House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) tonight released the following statement regarding the written assurances he received from the Director of National Intelligence, John Negroponte:

“The conference provision on detainees contains two major elements, the prohibition of inhumane treatment and the protection of U.S. personnel.

“The first is the product of the Senate and the second was injected in conference at the behest of the House to protect U.S. personnel, who act in good faith, against civil and criminal prosecution.

“While the House wanted stronger protection for U.S. personnel, the compromise provisions provide for a modicum of defenses and legal representation for U.S. personnel. This was the least we could do for our personnel who endure great hardship and danger to defend our nation.

“I advised the President’s National Security Advisor, Mr. Hadley, that the detainee provision would not be included, even in its improved state, in the defense bill absent an assurance by Mr. Hadley or Mr. Negroponte that U.S. intelligence would ‘continue at the same level of effectiveness subsequent to passage of the bill.’

“Mr. Negroponte told me he could not give such a level of assurance, but he would give a statement (attached). Mr. Negroponte’s commitment to report to Congress in one-hundred and eighty days on the effect the provision has on intelligence gathering, together with recommendations for adjustments, if any, will give our government the opportunity to measure our intelligence effectiveness post-enactment. If the Director of National Security recommends adjustments at the end of six months, we will work to enact them.

“Accordingly, I am signing the defense conference report and will work with Senator Warner to get this \$441.5 billion defense bill to the President’s desk.”

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